



1/31/06

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

SB 366 (Garcia)

SB 366 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to post, at the entrance to the recreational areas of each State park containing a designated shooting range that is open to visitors, a notice stating the range's regular hours of operation. The notice would have to be posted in a visible location, and the lettering would have to be of a sufficient type size to be read easily by State park visitors. The DNR would not have to post the hours of operation in which the shooting range was open for special events. If the Department did not do so, however, the notice would have to include a statement to that effect.

- **SB 366 ordered enrolled and given IE [no RC].**

GENERAL ORDERS

SB 567 (George)

SB 568 (Gilbert)

SB 911 (Gilbert)

HIGHWAY ADVERTISING

The bills would strike an appropriate balance between the preservation of the State's aesthetic qualities and the promotion of economic activity.

Senate Bill 567 would institute a moratorium on new billboards, ensuring that Michigan's scenic landscapes were not marred by the construction of further roadside signs.

- *Committee S-1 was adopted.*
- *SB 567 was moved to 3rd reading of bills.*

- **SB 567 was passed with IE [RC 40: 22 yes, 14 no].**

Senate Bill 568 would reduce State revenue associated with the requirement that a sign owner apply for a separate permit for each sign for each highway subject to the Act from which the sign's facing is visible. It is unknown how many signs would fall under the new single permit requirement. The bill would increase State revenue by allowing MDOT to issue vegetation management permits to sign owners. This permit would cost \$50. It is unknown how many sign owners would apply for a vegetation management permit; therefore, the fiscal impact is indeterminate at this time. As part of the permit process, sign owners would be required to develop a vegetation management plan identifying vegetation to be removed, trimmed, or relocated, according to certain criteria. Sign owners would be responsible for paying a tree replacement fee for any approved tree removals under the management plan. This provision also would result in increased State revenue.

- *Committee S-1 was adopted.*
- *SB 568 was moved to 3rd reading of bills.*
- **SB 568 was passed with IE [RC 41: 23 yes, 13 no].**

Senate Bill 911 would regulate encroachments and obstructions on highways and the use of highways by public utilities, to specify that the statute would not apply to the use of rights-of-way in the administration of the vegetation management program under the Highway Advertising Act.

- *SB 911 was moved to 3rd reading of bills [no amendments].*
- **SB 911 was passed with IE [RC 42: 23 yes, 13 no].**

SB 779 (Gilbert)

SB 779 amends the Michigan Vehicle Code to eliminate the December 31, 2006, sunset on a weight restriction on a combination of truck tractor and semitrailer with up to five axles used to haul agricultural commodities.

- *Gilbert 1 was adopted.*
- *SB 779 was moved to 3rd reading of bills.*
- **SB 779 was passed with IE [RC 44: 36 yes, 0 no].**

SB 932 (Allen)

Senate Bill 932 would amend the Pupil Transportation Act to revise school bus regulations and replace certain regulations with Federal requirements. Specifically, the bill would do the following: Eliminate the definition of "pupil transportation vehicle", redefine "school bus", and delete various references to pupil transportation vehicles. Prohibit a school from directly operating a motor bus for, and a motor carrier from using a motor bus for, pupil transportation. Require a motor bus built to school bus specifications that complied with the applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards to comply with the Act. Increase the maximum allowable size of a school bus. Revise regulations regarding school bus inspections. Require a person to obtain a

school bus indorsement under the Michigan Vehicle Code in order to operate a school bus. Require a commercial driver license skills test to be administered to a school bus driver whose license was suspended, revoked, or canceled; who was disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle or school bus; or who had been convicted of specified traffic violations. Repeal a section requiring the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to administer an on-road driver skills test to each school bus driver. -- Revise the educational requirements for the person or people in charge of school bus operations at a school. Revise specifications for school bus floors, windshields, mirrors, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and markings. Make a violation of the Act a State civil infraction rather than a misdemeanor. Repeal a section requiring a school to report to the MDE school bus fires and accidents; and requiring the MDE to provide recommendations for change to each school.

- *Committee S-1 was adopted.*
- *SB 932 was moved to 3rd reading of bills.*
- **SB 932 was passed with IE [RC 45: 36 yes, 0 no].**

HB 5104 (Caswell)

House Bill 5104 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to increase from 55 to 60 miles per hour the speed limit for a truck or truck-tractor being operated on a freeway on which the maximum speed is 70 miles per hour; and revise the speed limit for a person operating a passenger vehicle towing another vehicle or trailer.

- *Gilbert 1 was adopted.*
- *HB 5104 was moved to 3rd reading of bills.*
- **HB 5104 was passed with IE [RC 43: 25 yes, 11 no].**

HB 5168 (Zelenko)

House Bill 5168 would amend the Public Health Code to require an applicant for a health profession license or registration, or for reinstatement or reclassification of a license or registration, to undergo a criminal background check. In addition, the bill would allow a licensing board for good cause to request a licensee or registrant to have a criminal background check.

- **Committee S-2 was adopted.**
- **HB 5168 was moved to 3rd reading of bills.**
- **HB 5168 was passed with IE [RC 47: 36 yes, 0 no].**

HB 5448 (Vander Veen)

House Bill 5448 would amend the Mental Health Code to require criminal history checks on individuals seeking employment, an independent contract, or clinical privileges with a psychiatric facility or intermediate care facility for people with mental retardation. The Department of Community Health has received a grant from the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for \$5.0 million to provide criminal background checks for health facility

employees. This grant would cover costs of providing criminal background checks from 2005 through 2007. The State could incur some additional administrative expense associated with managing the criminal background check process and meeting the reporting requirements proposed by the bill.

- Hammerstrom 1a was adopted.
- Committee S-1 was adopted.
- HB 5448 was moved to 3rd reading of bills.
- HB 5448 was passed with IE [RC 46: 36 yes, 0 no].